

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks.

The amendments to this patent application are to revise the Abstract, and to amend the claims. Thus the originally filed Abstract was cancelled and has been rewritten as a single paragraph with up to 250 words on its own separate page.

The amendments to the claims are to revise the claims so as to overcome all of the various formal objections by the Patent Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112. Hence claims 5 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 16 have been amended.

Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested for the rejection of Claims 1 -17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The use of the term "caustic soda" is alleged to be indefinite in claims 1 and 2, and other claims it is present because it is a tradename. In response thereto Applicant has

identified the chemical name of this material and has replaced it with the term sodium hydroxide or NaOH.

The term "especially as" in the first line of claim 1 has been replaced with "useful as."

The Patent Examiner has suggested that the term "such as" be removed from claim 1 and any claim where it is also present.

Deletion of "such as" in claim 1, line 3, and replacement with "including" has been done. In claim 1, line 9, deletion of "such as" and replacement with "selected from the group consisting of alumina, iron oxide, and mixtures thereof;" has been done.

The Patent Examiner has stated that claim 2 would appear to be indefinite because the specific amounts of each component that is critical to the invention has not been provided. This has been corrected by revising claim 2 to be an independent claim and not a hybrid claim, and to include all the amount limitations for the components of claim 1 for the method of claim 2.

The term "normal pressure" was alleged to be indefinite in claim 2 and in other claims. This has been revised to recite "standard pressure" because the pressure is considered to be standard pressure.

The term "if necessary" in claim 2 and in other claims has been replaced with "optionally," whenever appropriate.

The terms "other additives" and "accessory" agents are alleged to be indefinite in claim 2. Now claim 2 has been amended and particularly points out exactly what these materials are in this claim.

The limitation of "water vapor partial pressure being adjusted, selected, or controlled as a function of time temperature" has been alleged to be vague because it is not clear how it is adjusted or controlled. This language is present in claims 2, 4, 17 and has now been revised wherever appropriate. Also claim 17 has been cancelled.

The terms "carbon dioxide being excluded or admitted" has been alleged to be vague and indefinite. This language has been cancelled from claim 2.

The Patent Examiner alleged that the language "carbon dioxide eliminated or admitted" is vague. Also, "admission of carbon dioxide is controlled by adjusting or selecting the carbon dioxide partial pressure" would appear vague in claim 4. This language has been cancelled from claim 4.

Claim 7 was alleged to be indefinite as to how the "additives" are different from the "accessory agents." This language has been cancelled from claim 7.

For all the reasons set forth above, the Abstract, and all the claims are firmly believed to be in complete compliance with all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

In summary, claims 5 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 16 have been amended. In view of these amendments, it is believed that the present patent application is now in condition for allowance.

A prompt notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

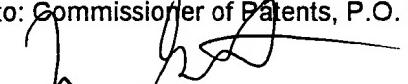
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Enclosures: 1) Copy Petition One Month Extension of Time for Small Entity

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 7, 2003.


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